

SMITH VELMA T
79 KABUL 1908

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117

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PAGE 01 KABUL 01908 130520Z

ACTION NEA-11

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SY-05 SYE-00 USSS-00 MCT-02
CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00 ICAE-00
INRE-00 PM-05 INR-10 L 03 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15
SAA-01 /068 W

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FM AMEMBASSY KABUL

TC SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2735

INFO AMEMBASSY ISLAMABAD

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI

C O N F I D E N T I A L KABUL 1908

E.O. 12065: GDS 3-11-85 FLATIN. BRUCE A. OR-M

TAGS: ASEC, PEPR, PINS, AF, US

SUBJECT: AFGHANS PROVIDE ONLY MINIMAL COOPERATION
EMBASSY'S INVESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTION
DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS

REF: (A) KABUL 1006; (B) KABUL 1569

1. (C - ENTIRE TEXT.)

2. SUMMARY: THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF AFGHANISTAN DRA
HAS THUS FAR PROVIDED ONLY MINIMAL ASSISTANCE TO OUR IN-
VESTIGATION INTO THE ABDUCTION AND DEATH OF AMBASSADOR ADOLPH
DUBS. END OF SUMMARY

3. WE WISH TO PRESENT A BRIEF ACCOUNT OF THE ASSISTANCE
WE HAVE RECEIVED TO DATE FROM THE DRA IN OUR INVESTIGATION
INTO THE ABDUCTION AND DEATH OF AMBASSADOR DUBS. TO FURTHER
OUR INQUIRY, WE SUBMITTED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
FOUR DIPLOMATIC NOTES. (COPIES OF OUR NOTES AND THE DRA
REPLIES WILL BE SENT TO THE DEPARTMENT VIA AIRGRAM.)

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PAGE 02 KABUL 01908 130520Z

4. THE FIRST OF OUR NOTES (NO. 33 OF FEBRUARY 18) REQUESTED
INTER ALIA, A COPY OF THE FORMAL AFGHAN POLICE REPORT ON
THE INCIDENT, FIRM IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS. AN
EXPLANATION OF THE CIRCUMSTANCES LEADING TO THE DECISION
TO STORM THE HOTEL ROOM, A COMPLETE BALLISTICS REPORT ON
THE WEAPONS FOUND IN THE ROOM, AND AUTOPSY REPORTS THAT
FORENSIC INFORMATION ON THE SLAIN TERRORISTS. A SECOND
NOTE (NO. 42 OF FEBRUARY 26) REQUESTED PERMISSION FOR AMERICAN
OFFICIALS TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE WEAPONS POSSESSED BY THE
AMBASSADOR'S ABDUCTORS. (NOTE: THE PROTOCOL DEPARTMENT OF THE
FOREIGN MINISTRY AND POLICE COMMANDANT SAYED DAUD TAROON HAD
EARLIER INVITED US TO SEE AND TAKE PICTURES OF THESE WEAPONS
BUT FAILED TO FOLLOW THROUGH WITH THIS INVITATION WHEN WE
PRESSED FOR SPECIFIC APPOINTMENT TIMES.)

5. IN RESPONSE TO OUR FIRST NOTE, THE DRA FURNISHED A REPORT
(REFTEL B). THIS REPORT, AS NOTED IN REFTEL A, WAS

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DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR
REVIEWED BY MA Cooper DATE 3-13-81
RDS ☐ or XDS ☐ EXT. DATE
TS AUTH. REASON(S)
ENDORSE EXISTING MARKINGS ☐
DECLASSIFIED ☐ RELEASEABLE ☒
RELEASE DOWNGRADED
PA OF FOI EXEMPTIONS

PAGE 1

SMITH VELMA T
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SERIOUS INTERNAL INCONSISTENCIES AND APPEARS AT VARIANCE BOTH WITH THE FACTS AS WE KNOW THEM AND WITH OTHER STATEMENTS MADE BY DRA OFFICIALS ON THE INCIDENT. BEYOND A BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE WEAPONS. IT PROVIDED NO BALLISTICS INFORMATION, NO AUTOPSY REPORTS OR FORENSIC INFORMATION AND NO IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS. ALL OF WHICH WE HAD REQUESTED IN OUR NOTE OF FEBRUARY 18.

6. THE INCOMPLETENESS OF THE DRA'S ACCOUNT PROMPTED US TO SUBMIT ANOTHER DIPLOMATIC NOTE (NO. 53 OF FEBRUARY 28), REITERATING OUR REQUESTS FOR AN IDENTIFICATION OF THE TERRORISTS. THE COMPLETE BALLISTICS REPORTS ON THEIR WEAPONS AND AUTOPSY REPORTS WITH FORENSIC INFORMATION. WE ALSO ASKED TO LEARN THE NAME AND POSITION OF THE OFFICIAL WHO PREPARED THE OFFICIAL DRA REPORT.

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PAGE 03 KABUL 01908 130520Z

7. THE GOVERNMENT HAS RESPONDED TO THIS NOTE. AND TO OUR NOTE REQUESTING TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE WEAPONS WITH MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS NOTE NO. 1025 OF MARCH 6. THIS NOTE DECLARED THAT "THE INFORMATION ON THE TYPES AND SHAPES OF THE WEAPONS LEFT FROM THE TERRORISTS TOGETHER WITH WHATEVER INFORMATION THE SECURITY AUTHORITIES COULD OBTAIN" WERE SENT TO THE EMBASSY IN THE POLICE REPORT "FORWARDED" BY POLICE COMMANDANT TAROON. (NOTE: THE MFA'S NOTE DOES NOT SAY THAT TAROON AUTHORED THE REPORT. ONLY THAT HE FORWARDED IT.)

8. IN RESPONSE TO ANOTHER EMBASSY NOTE (NO. 52 DATED FEBRUARY 28) OUR INVESTIGATORS WERE PERMITTED ON MARCH 8 TO VIEW AND PHOTOGRAPH THE INTERIOR AND EXTERIOR OF THE KABUL HOTEL. INCLUDING THE ROOM WHERE THE AMBASSADOR WAS HELD. WE MIGHT NOTE IN PASSING THAT, PRIOR TO ADMITTING OUR PHOTOGRAPHER TO THE HOTEL ROOM POLICE PHOTOGRAPHERS THEMSELVES TOOK PICTURES OF THE ROOM, WHICH SUGGESTS THAT THE DRA ITSELF MIGHT NOT HAVE PREVIOUSLY CARRIED OUT THIS BASIC INVESTIGATIVE PROCEDURE.

9. DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR INVESTIGATION, RSOS BOLES AND GALACINSKI, AND ESS KELLY HELD SEVERAL DISCUSSIONS ON THE CASE WITH TAROON. THEY INDICATE THAT THE INFORMATION AND ASSISTANCE HE PROVIDED WAS MINIMAL. ON THE MOST RECENT OCCASION WHEN OUR INVESTIGATORS ATTEMPTED TO SEE TAROON HE INFORMED THE EMBASSY THROUGH THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS THAT HE COULD NOT FIT THEM INTO HIS SCHEDULE.

10. COMMENT: WE DO NOT YET WISH TO SPECULATE WHY THE DRA HAS PROVIDED ONLY MARGINAL ASSISTANCE TO OUR INVESTIGATION, AND WHY MUCH OF THE INFORMATION FURNISHED IN ITS REPORT WAS INACCURATE, INCOMPLETE OR MISLEADING. WE ALSO BELIEVE WITH REGRET FURTHER REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION FROM THE DRA WILL PRODUCE NO POSITIVE RESULTS.

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PAGE 2

SMITH VELMA T
79 KABUL 1908

08/22/80 184041 PRINTER: LI

PAGE 04
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

KABUL 01908 130520Z